



News Advisory
April 24, 2006

Contacts:

- [Don Strickland](#), Information Officer, (916) 653-9515
- [Ted Thomas](#), Information Officer, (916) 653-9712
- [Frank Gehrke](#), Snow Surveys Office, (916) 952-4044 (on-site cell phone number on day of survey)

DWR Sets Fifth and Final Snow Survey Date of Season

SACRAMENTO--The fifth snow survey of the 2005-2006 winter season by the California Department of Water Resources will take place at 11 a.m. Thursday, April 27, 2006, near Lake Tahoe.

Monthly measurements are made through April to help forecast the amount of spring runoff into reservoirs. The fifth survey, normally conducted during the last week of April or the first week of May, does not normally provide a particularly significant snowpack reading. This year, however, because of considerable late season snowfall, the last check of snow conditions has particular relevance.

March and April precipitation has been so abundant that DWR was able to increase State Water Project deliveries to its 29 contractors to 100 percent of requested amounts.

Historic Phillips Station, Highway 50 and Sierra at Tahoe Road, (about 90 miles east of Sacramento) is the site of the manual survey. Complete snow course measurements should be available by noon.

Media representatives are advised to bring snowshoes or cross-country skis and to park only in the permitted area along Highway 50, not along Sierra at Tahoe Road.

In addition to this single manually measured site, reporters can find real-time readings of statewide water content posted on the Internet in date order (newest at the bottom) at <http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/lreports/DLYSWEQ>.

Importance of Snow Surveying

Snow-water content is important in determining the coming year's water supply. The measurements help hydrologists prepare water supply forecasts as well as provide others,

such as hydroelectric power companies and the recreation industry, with much needed data.

Monitoring is coordinated by the Department of Water Resources as part of the multi-agency California Cooperative Snow Surveys Program. Surveyors from more than 50 agencies and utilities visit hundreds of snow measurement courses each month to monitor the amount of water in the State's snowpack.

The Department of Water Resources operates and maintains the State Water Project, provides dam safety and flood control and inspection services, assists local water districts in water management and water conservation planning, and plans for future statewide water needs.

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